# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2534
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2001
CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

**Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) The confidence building measures taken by the Government during the last three months preceding Indo-Pak Summit at Agra;

(b) whether Pakistan Government has reciprocated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) On 23rd May 2001, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee announced that in pursuance of the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration he would invite General Pervez Musharraf, Chief Executive (and currently President) of Pakistan to visit India. To create a conducive environment prior to this visit Government announced several significant initiatives pertaining to peace & security including nuclear and non-nuclear CBMs, people-to people contact, humanitarian issues, education youth exchanges and trade.

On 4th July 2001, as steps to further promote people-to-people contacts, Government announced that 20 scholarship will be offered to students from Pakistan in Indian technical institutes; Pakistani poets, academics, writers and artistes would be invited individually and in groups for a month long visit to India as guests of Government; and, groups of Pakistani students (from school and university, boys and girls) will be invited by Government to visit and tour Indian academic establishments. To reduce the hardships faced by poor fishermen, Government instructed the Coast Guard not to take into custody Pakistani fishermen who inadvertently stray into Indian territorial waters. Henceforth, they will be turned back after due warning. The Ministry of Home Affairs was instructed to take expeditious action for the release of Pakistani `civilian` prisoners after due processes of law. To promote imports from Pakistan, the Ministry of Commerce was instructed to reduce/eliminate tariff on 50 tariff lines.

On 6th July 2001, Government announced that the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) was being instructed to visit Pakistan to meet his counterpart so that the processes of peace along the LoC and AGPL can be further strengthened and stabilized. Government also proposed that an official level expert dialogue be held for bilateral consultations on security concepts and Nuclear Confidence Building Measures. In addition non-official exchanges on these issues would be encouraged.

On 9th July 2001, to make travel between India and Pakistan as simple and easy as possible, Government announced that henceforth Pakistani passport holders will be allowed to come by the road route and obtain visas at the check post at Attari. An additional check post will be opened at Munabao in Rajasthan. Similar check posts will also be opened at designated points along the IB and the LoC in Jammu & Kashmir.

(b)&(c) No, Sir. Pakistan continues to adhere to its traditionally narrow and unifocal approach to bilateral relations which is fixated on the issue of Jammu & Kashmir. Government are, however, committed to implementing the confidence building measures announced, which when implemented will contribute to the establishment of peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan.